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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS  
Professor Joshua Lederberg

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Hi Marge--

I can't get very excited about polygenes. When we have some quantitative assays for the factors that relate to brain development, we might try to identify the ethnic polymorphisms. And one might then consider a working hypothesis that the frequencies of the right genes are higher among Jews (at least West-European and American). But I would be very cautious about promulgating it. We'll become targets for being ground up for memory-RNA instead of soap.

"Spare us from our 'friends'".

Did this comment on Jensen ever filter down your way? The Washington Post now disseminates my articles on its newswire, and I notice that the Houston Chronicle is a subscriber to this. But I have no idea who ever prints it.

It would be great to see you again, and I would like very much for you to meet Marguerite and David. But a 4.5-yr. old does tie us down somewhat. Don't miss any chance to come through here, please.

It recently occurred to me that, at least on theoretical grounds, chloramines might be very potent clastogens. These are almost universally present in city water supplies at levels of 1 ppm up. (from reactions of chlorination with organic amino comps.), and much more where hypochlorites are used in cleaning poultry, etc. We're looking into mutagenic effects on bacteria now. Worrying about irradiated foods or whatever might be absolutely pointless. Have you ever seen any literature on this?

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